

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 18-33 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 20-23, 25, 26, 28 and 30-33 are amended. Claim 17 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully appreciate that the Office Action indicates that claims 1-16, 18, 19, 27 and 29 are allowed, and that claims 31-33 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 17, 23, 25 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sadovnik (U.S. Patent No. 5,497,430) in view of Hart (U.S. Patent No. 4,916,745); claims 26, 28 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(e) over Sadovnik and Hart, and further in view of Cramer (U.S. Patent No. 6,000,844); and claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sadovnik and Hart, and further in view of Simpson (U.S. Patent No. 6,485,625). Claim 17 is canceled. Thus, the rejection of this claim is moot.

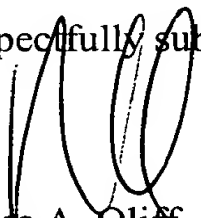
Claims 20-23, 25, 26, 28, 30 and 33 are amended to depend from allowed claim 18. Thus, claims 20-26, 28, 30 and 33 should be allowed.

Moreover, allowable claims 31 and 32 are amended to incorporate the features of independent claim 17. Thus, new independent claims 31 and 32 should also be allowed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 and 18-33 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Richard S. Elias
Registration No. 48,806

JAO:RSE/al

Date: August 11, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--